

**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM**



**STATE OF WISCONSIN**

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
POST OFFICE BOX 8111  
MADISON, WI 53708-8111**

**DATE:** November 13, 2007

**TO:** Chair Senator Sullivan, Members on the Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs,  
Biotechnology and Financial Institutions

**FROM:** COL (Ret) Larry L. Olson  
Executive Assistant  
Department of Military Affairs

**SUBJECT:** Information on Assembly Bill 370 and Assembly Bill 32

Good afternoon Chairman Sullivan and members of the Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, Biotechnology and Financial Institutions. I am Larry Olson (COL-Ret) the Executive Assistant at the Department of Military Affairs. With me today is Major Dave Dziobkowski a member of our legal staff.

Brig Gen Dunbar passes on his thanks for the support this committee provides to all of Wisconsin Guard service members, the active duty forces, reserves, and our veterans. Recently we welcomed home members of the 1-147<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion from a mobilization to Kosovo and we presently have units and members serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.

**AB370:**

We are here today in support of AB 370, which will assist a military service member who has been licensed to operate military vehicles in obtaining a Wisconsin Commercial Drivers License. AB 370 would allow transition to civilian employment in Wisconsin by treating the service member's application the same as an application of a commercial driver's license holder from another jurisdiction, which is current law.

In the Wisconsin Army National Guard, we have approx. 772 HMMWV's and over 800 military vehicles, which are larger than a military HMMWV. There is at least one licensed operator for all of these vehicles.

We look forward to work with the State Department of Transportation to provide any assistance required in making a determination regarding an equivalent class of vehicle. We are here to answer any questions you may have.

AB32:

AB32 simply adds "military service" to the present statutes regarding employment discrimination. Wisconsin employers have been outstanding in their support of our service members. Just this last Sunday the Wisconsin State Journal highlighted the efforts employers have taken to welcome our soldiers back home and assist families during deployments. Our own Wisconsin Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) provides information to our employers and assists service members during deployments. As we continue to answer the nation's call this bill will assist our service members to ensure continued support. Deployments can vary from several months to over 14 months in duration and we understand the stress this places on our families and employers. Again, we are here to answer any questions.

We thank you for your time and commitment to our Wisconsin service members, families, veterans and our employers.

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES



Chairman Sullivan and Committee members:

On behalf of Commander Bill Hustad and the nearly 60,000 members and auxiliary members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) located in Posts from Superior to Pleasant Prairie and from Dickeyville to Ellison Bay, I wish to thank you for scheduling a hearing on Assembly Bill 370 relating to commercial driving license testing for military license holders.

This bill had its genesis when I talked to members of the 1157<sup>th</sup> and 1158<sup>th</sup> Transportation Companies of the Wisconsin National Guard. These soldiers had returned from Iraq after driving vehicles on some of the most hazardous roads in the world and could not qualify for testing to get a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) to drive on the relatively peaceful roads of Wisconsin. They are required to get further drivers education before they can be tested.

After contacting the Governor's office and Secretary Busalacchi of DOT for some magical solution that would enable these soldiers' to get their CDL's, I was informed that the only way to accomplish this goal was legislatively. Secretary Busalacchi was in favor of the idea and referred me to Representative Bob Turner to implement the legislation. Representative Turner in turn introduced AB 370 and for that I wish to thank him and his staff for assisting those who have served our nation.

To put it in the simplest of terms, this bill would require DOT to waive the knowledge and driving skills tests for CDL applicants who hold a federal military CDL, regardless of where it was issued, with endorsements authorizing operation of commercial motor vehicles.

The military training to obtain a CDL is formal, rigorous and requires successful completion prior to authorization to drive each type of vehicle ranging from the smallest Humvee to the largest tank transport carrier. The experience level of these military drivers is of the highest caliber. These young men and women have proved themselves on roads both here and abroad.

Current state law already authorizes the waiver of CDL knowledge and road tests from another state or jurisdiction. This bill would merely extend that waiver to those who have obtained their driving experience while serving in the Armed Forces.

This bill would go a long way in easing the transition from being a driver in a military setting to being a civilian, tax-paying driver in the state of Wisconsin.

1. The first part of the report discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for the integrity of the financial system and for the ability to detect and prevent fraud.

## 2. The second part of the report discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions.

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I wish to once again thank Representative Turner for introducing this bill and Senator Sullivan for holding this hearing. I respectfully request a favorable vote from the members of this committee. Subject to you questions that concludes my testimony..

Michael L "Gunner" Furgal  
State Legislative Chairman  
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Jim Doyle, Governor  
John A. Scocos, Secretary

April 18, 2007

Representative Bob Turner  
Wisconsin State Assembly  
Room 212 North, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Turner:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and the nearly half-million veterans we serve, thank you for authoring LRB 1656, regarding Commercial Driver's Licenses for former Members of the Armed Services.

Currently, many military service members undergo formal military training to learn to operate many types of military vehicles. Military service members are then authorized on military driver's license to drive each type of vehicle on which they have successfully completed training. These types of vehicles range from Humvees and tanks to 2-1/2 and 5-ton trucks, transport carriers, and many others.

The training is formal, rigorous, and requires successful completion prior to authorization to operate each type of vehicle.

Your legislation would provide an extra boost to transitioning military service members, who would have the ability to receive a Wisconsin Commercial Driver's License (CDL) for the corresponding commercial vehicles on which the service members were trained while in service.

This CDL waiver is not unique. Current state law already authorizes the waiver of CDL-related knowledge and road tests for individuals with a CDL from another state or jurisdiction.

Even if this waiver proposed under your bill were unique, it would be an important measure to aid service members in transitioning to civilian employment in Wisconsin.

Thank you for the foresight to see the need for, and for introducing this important legislation. Your enduring, demonstrated commitment to honoring and assisting those who served our nation in uniform in its times of need is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John A. Scocos", is written over a horizontal line.

JOHN A. SCOCOS  
Secretary

